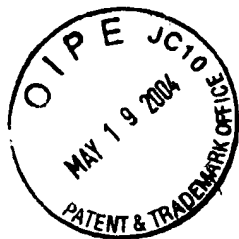


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

Li et al.

Examiner: not yet assigned

APPLICATION NO: 10/807,089

Art Unit: not yet assigned

FILED: March 23, 2004

FOR: Microbial Transformation Method for the Preparation of an
Epothilone

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Preliminary Amendment

Sir:

Applicants respectfully request introduction of this preliminary amendment, prior to the examination of the present application.